
DISAM Sends Mobile Education Team to Colombia

Michael L. Layton, DISAM's Director of American Studies, along with Commander Patrick K. Hawkins, SC, USN, and Craig M. Brandt comprised the members of the mobile education team to Bogotá, Colombia, to teach a five-day Planning and Resource Management Course (SAM-P) from 8-12 November 1999. The class was attended by 34 students from the Ministry of Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force and National Police. Also included in the class were members of the U.S. Embassy staff and Colombian personnel assigned to the U.S. Military Group. A contractor of the Embassy provided simultaneous translation of the classes. The purpose of the course was to place U.S. security cooperation programs within the context of overall Colombian defense planning to develop an awareness of mutual resource planning.



Professor Mike Layton, DISAM's Director of Western Hemisphere Studies, presents a memento of appreciation to Marcela Forero of the Military Group Colombia for her efforts in organizing the planning and resource management course.

definition of offsets. Once a baseline was established Professors Hawkins and Layton with the assistance of Lt Col Parilla outlined the U.S. policy on offsets and the general outline of how offsets work. The audience was attentive, asked numerous questions and was appreciative of the information that was provided

While in Colombia, the team was able to provide additional consultation on the security assistance process. The Government of Colombia requested to meet with someone within the U.S. government who was familiar with offsets and how they were applied to FMS sales. A meeting was arranged with representatives of the National Department of Planning, Mr. Andrés Soto Velasco, Head of the Justice and Security Unit, and Ms. Yaneth Giha Tovar from the Military Forces and Police Division of the Justice and Security Unit. Professors Hawkins and Layton, accompanied by the Military Group training officer, Lt Col Ezequiel Parilla, USAF, visited the Ministry of Finance on 10 November. On arrival at the Ministry of Finance the team was greeted by some twenty individuals from various Colombian government organizations ranging from the Ministry of Finance, National Police, Air Force Chief of Logistics, and the Division of Planning and Policy. The meeting was opened by requesting from the Colombian representatives their

In conjunction with an effort of the Department of Defense's Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at National Defense University, Craig Brandt accompanied Lt Col Parilla to a meeting with Colonel Augusto Pradilla, Rector of the Military University "Nueva Granada," and his faculty. General Medina of the Ministry of Defense has proposed a master's level course in

resource administration for defense, and the Military University is investigating the feasibility of such an effort. Dr. Brandt was able to provide information on American military graduate programs that are involved in resource management. These are the first steps on the road to implementing this educational program, and the Military University is searching for agreements with an American institution that will be carried out under security cooperation programs.



Colonel Kevin Higgins, the Military Group Commander, presided over the graduation ceremony.

Professor Brandt also accompanied Lt Col Parilla to a meeting hosted by the Air Force's Military Institute of Aeronautics and attended by representatives of the Army, National Police and the Air Force. The purpose was to discuss proposed courses on research management included in this year's IMET program. The Colombian forces are seeking to improve the awareness of their officers of techniques involved in managing the Ministry of Defense's limited resources.

The graduation ceremony commenced with the singing of national anthems of both Colombia and the United States. Colonel Kevin M. Higgins, USA, the Military Group commander, presided over the graduation ceremony in which the students were awarded diplomas and the DISAM graduate's badge. The students universally agreed that the course was a success and that that their knowledge of how American programs fit together with their own military programs would benefit them in managing these enterprises.